For item-wise trade figures, DGCI&S Publication titled Foreign Trade Statistics of India, March, 1995 and 1996, available in the Parliament Library may be consulted.

(c) to (f). Infrastructural deficiences like narrow roads, lack of parking space, shortage of warehousing facilities etc. are resulting in congestion and delays at the Petropole Land Customs Station (LCS). Government have approved a few projects for improving infrastructural facilities at the LCS, which include construction of warehousing facilities at Petropole LCS, construction of a four lane by-pass at Haridaspur International Check Post, development of a truck terminus at Bongaon, strengthening and widening of the approach road, widening of stretches of NH 35 etc.

The road at Changrabandha, in Coochabehar District requires repairs but trade is continuing through this road.

Smuggling of Rice

5730. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling of rice in a large scale from Assam to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected so far, and

(c) the action taken to stop such smuggling activities ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No such incident has been reported to the Government.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Anti-smuggling agencies are alert to detect and prevent all smuggling including smuggling of rice from Assam to Bangladesh.

World Bank Assisted Projects in Orissa

5731. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects working in Orissa with the assistance of World Bank;

(b) whether any proposal has been received from the Orissa Government to set up some other projects with the assistance of World Bank;

(c) if so, the number of projects pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(d) the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There are eight state/multistate on-going projects being implemented with World Bank assistance in the State of Orissa. Besides these eight projects, there are several central sector projects being implemented across the country, including the state of Orissa.

(b) to (d). There are two multistate projects which are already under consideration of World Bank for possible assistance. These are the State health Systems and State Roads Project. World Bank is carrying out the appraisal of both the projects in a timely manner.

Cotton Ginning and Pressing Mills

5732. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to create funds for modernisation of cotton ginning and pressing mills;

(b) if so, the details of the funds earmarked for this purpose during the current financial year and during the last three years ?

(c) the steps taken by the Government to upgrade the old ginning and pressing mills in order to improve the quality of cotton fibre and also to avoid fibre loss in outdated ginning machine; and

(d) the position of Indian cotton fibre in the International market alongwith the details of export of cotton fibre during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

(c) The Cotton Corporation of India pays financial incentives to the Ginning and Pressing Factories for improving the general Standards of ginning, processing and gradation of cotton with the objective to control contamination in cotton.

(d) Because of the wide range in quality from non-spinnable cotton like Assam Comilla to extra fine cottons like DCH-32 and suvin capable of spinning 80s to 120s counts, India cotton is well known in the International market. The details of export of cotton during the last 3 years are as under :

Year	Export	
	Qt. Reqd.	Shipped (in lakh bales of 170 kg. each)
1992-93	17.855	13.766
1993-94	5.695	3.90
1994-95	1.856	1.08

Investment in Kenya and Tanzania

5733. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :